

PENTAGON TO BACK CENSORSHIP ROLE

Will Stand Firm at Inquiry
on 'Muzzling' the Military

By JACK RAYMOND

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13—

Faced with Senate hearings on charges of "muzzling," Pentagon officials are planning to stand firm on their power to censor speeches and articles by military men.

The civilian leadership will also call attention to plans for new procedures and policies in troop indoctrination, including basic instruction in the threat of communism in various forms.

Aware of charges that the Administration has been "soft on communism," the Pentagon officials will outline steps they have already taken to provide materials on this subject for troop information and education.

Senator Strom Thurmond, Democrat of South Carolina, issued today a lengthy written attack on the Pentagon's public affairs policies. The Senator's articles were made available to all news media.

Senator Thurmond's articles constituted, in effect, a summary of the charges that prompted the investigation. The inquiry will be headed by Senator John Stennis, Democrat of Mississippi, chairman of a special subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Public hearings are scheduled to begin Jan. 23.

Senator Thurmond accused

Continued

PENTAGON TO BACK CENSORSHIP ROLE

Continued From Page 1, Col. 1

the Pentagon authorities of "soft-pedaling" anti-Communist statements, of shelving or de-emphasizing anti-Communist troop training programs and of discouraging military participation in "cold war" seminars authorized by a directive of the National Security Council in 1958.

The Senator, who is a major general in the Army Reserve, charged the Administration with prosecuting a "no win" policy. He accused the Pentagon of having substituted a "namby-pamby, gutless" indoctrination film for the controversial "Operation Abolition," a film depicting student disorders in San Francisco that allegedly were started by Communists.

The Senator charged that two directives by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, outlining limitations on public appearances by military men, were "evidence of success of the campaign to gag anti-communism."

Decries Indoctrination

He charged that almost no action had been taken to improve deficiencies in troop indoctrination that had been demonstrated during the Korean war, when many soldiers were "brainwashed" by the Communist enemy.

"Indeed, there are indications from numerous sources that those weaknesses still prevail, and in many cases, are even more pronounced than they were eight or eleven years ago," Senator Thurmond said.

He quoted an unidentified Air Force officer who served on the advisory committee on prisoners of war for the Secretary of Defense as having said: "Once the documents [including the committee's recommendations] were signed and proclaimed, they were filed away, then that was the end of them. I never thought it possible. The program that was to restore American stamina and teach our forces to understand the wiles of communism has been sabotaged."

Examples of Censorship

Senator Thurmond gave a preview of material that would be brought up during the hearings by citing the following examples of statements that were deleted from proposed speeches by military men in 1961.

"Communist conspiracy directed toward absolute domination of the world * * *

"Soviet infiltration menacing this nation and extending throughout far corners of the globe * * *

"The steady advance of Communism * * *

challenge * * *

"Insidious ideology of world communism * * *

"Nothing has happened to indicate that the goals of international communism have changed * * *

One Change Ridiculed

Senator Thurmond charged that apparent efforts to delete references to "victory" or "war" had been carried to "ridiculous extremes" when an officer proposed using the following sentence in a technical speech:

"The X-15 is the 'Man o' War' of the stable of research aircraft today."

According to the senator, the phrase was deleted and the censor wrote in the margin:

"Let's use another steed—Zev, Gallant Fox, etc., but not this one."

The Senator also charged that a high-ranking officer's remarks before the House Foreign Affairs Committee had been heavily censored, although military personnel are supposed to speak without restrictions in appearances before Congress.

Senator Thurmond quoted Allen W. Dulles, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, as having said that the Soviet line was too often picked up and parroted by various news media in this country.

News Media Denounced

In a separate reference, Senator Thurmond charged that The New York Times, The Washington Post and Times Herald, Newsweek, The Nation, The Reporter and The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists had "followed" a propaganda "line" originated by The Daily Worker. The "line," he said, implied "that anti-Communists constitute a graver threat to our country than do Communists."

The Senator assailed a memorandum by Senator J. W. Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Mr. Fulbright's memorandum raised questions about the propriety of military participation in certain "cold war" seminars and suggested a re-examination of policies in military education. This memorandum, Senator Thurmond said, prompted his participation in the campaign that led to the Senate hearings.

Defense officials indicated that they were prepared to meet Senator Thurmond on almost all his charges regarding censorship of speeches by military men.

May Back Civilians

Admiral Arleigh A. Burke, former Chief of Naval Operations, probably will be the first witness in the hearings. There are indications, however, that although Admiral Burke was one of the first victims of Ad-

ministration censorship early last year, he will take a moderate line and support the civilian right of censorship.

Admiral Burke recently confirmed that he had been restricted in what he could say and that several of his prepared speeches had been withdrawn. "But I didn't protest," he said. "I have no objection to having speeches censored."

The former Navy chief said that often an officer did not have complete knowledge of any situation and that he should submit speeches to officials with more information "to make sure he wasn't saying something disrupting."

This attitude conforms with the position that the Pentagon officials plan to take when the hearings begin. Secretary McNamara expressed himself along similar lines during the last session of Congress.

The Secretary and his aides pointed out that the censorship of Admiral Burke and similar cases had occurred at a time when the United States was negotiating the release of captured United States fliers who had been downed in an RB-47 reconnaissance bomber over international waters.

"Without policy clearance," the Secretary continued, "military speakers run the risk of violating inadvertently the constitutional concept of civilian control. They also run the risk of giving our national policy an appearance of confusion—a grave danger in the field of foreign affairs."

1,500 Speeches Studied

Staff members of the special subcommittee have studied 1,500 speeches prepared by military officials and subjected to clearance by authorities of the Defense Department. Of these, 1,200 speeches were cleared during the Kennedy Administration and 300 during the final period of the Eisenhower Administration. Of the total, the subcommittee's staff members have selected 300 for use in the hearings.

The hearings will be in two sections. The first will cover censorship of speeches. In addition to Admiral Burke, Lieut. Gen. Arthur G. Trudeau, the Army's research and development chief, is understood to have had his speeches censored

by the Kennedy Administration. He is also expected to testify.

The second section will cover troop indoctrination and will include the case of former Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker, who quit the Army last November after having been formally admonished. It was charged that Mr. Walker had attempted to sway the votes of his troops in the elections of 1960, and had made derogatory statements in public about such persons as Mr. Truman and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Mr. Walker, who is a member of the John Birch Society, has agreed to testify at the hearings.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon has prepared for the hearings material outlining the current information and education programs and plans for extending and improving them.

Radio, TV and Films Used

The information and education programs cover radio, television and motion pictures in addition to printed materials.

The defense Department operates 205 radio stations. It beams short-wave broadcasts sixteen and one-half hours a day, seven days a week from Los Angeles, and eight and one-half hours a day, seven days a week, from New York.

In television, fifty-five hours of programming are sent out each week to thirty-four television outlets operated by the military for troops in various parts of the world.

The defense department also produces ten thirty-minute films a year. Up to 6,000,000 prints are made of each film and divided among the services.

The Defense Department prints 125 publications a year. These cover current events, outlining the United States attitude toward current issues, as well as the history and background of world developments, including problems and activities of communism.

Officials plan to call attention at the hearings to the committee that was announced last week to study the troop indoctrination program and make recommendations for possible changes. Admiral Burke is among its members.